

In regards to the petition to eliminate element 1 from amateur radio testing and licensing:

I am an active Ham operator, especially in emergency communications. I am currently associated with the Baltimore City ARES group and Red Cross DSHR, and was formerly the Technical Officer of Los Angeles County Disaster Communications Service and City Radio Officer for the City of Santa Monica Disaster Communications Service.

As an active emergency communicator, I've found it harder and harder to attract volunteers into the service due to the code requirement. Even the perception of "having to learn" Morse Code to participate has turned off otherwise able individuals from participating in the emergency radio service.

Who can blame them? Imagine if, when getting your drivers license, you were informed that in order to qualify you had to demonstrate your ability with horse and buggy. Even though you'd likely never use a horse and buggy, other than to satisfy this spurious requirement.

Seem far-fetched?

To me, so is any code requirement in this day and age.

I wholeheartedly support this petition and the immediate removal of Element 1 from testing and licensing in the Amateur Radio Service.

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